



# Private Lead Service Line Replacement Program (PLSLR)

May 2022

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## Contact Us

Water Business Office  
109 N. Macy Street  
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Office: 920-322-3680  
fdlwater@fdl.wi.gov

## PLSLR Program Overview

The Fond du Lac Water Utility is taking steps to minimize lead in your drinking water.

An EPA Lead & Copper Rule Revisions White Paper provides the following insight:

- In 2011, the EPA Science Advisory Board reported partial lead service line replacement (PLSLR) is "frequently associated with short-term elevated drinking water lead levels for some period of time after replacement...Available data suggest that the elevated tap water lead levels tend to gradually stabilize over time following the PLSLR, sometimes to levels below and sometimes at levels similar to those observed prior to PLSLR."
- EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a total exposure to lead.
- "EPA has consistently emphasized that the health-based maximum contaminant level goal for lead in the current Lead & Copper Rule is zero and that there is no safe level of lead exposure."
- "Where they are present, the most significant source of lead in drinking water are leaded pipes that extend from the water main underneath the street to the residence."

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring compliance with the EPA's Lead & Copper Rule. A letter issued to Community Public Water Systems in 2016 by the WisDNR strongly recommended to "Avoid partial lead service line replacements and proactively engage in a lead service line replacement program"

Based on the EPA's report and the WisDNR's recommendation City Council has decided to help protect the health, safety and wellbeing of City residents. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the City Council of Fond du Lac passed Ordinance No. 3629 requiring replacement of lead water service lines in their entirety during planned utility improvements and emergency repair situations.

In prior years the Utility obtained a Safe Drinking Water Loan through the Wisconsin DNR totaling \$500,000. This money was used to assist homeowners with the cost of replacing their PLSLs, however this money is now gone. 2017 Wisconsin Act 137 was enacted on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 now known as Wisconsin Stat. §196.372. This legislation open doors for utilities to financially assist property owners in replacing lead service lines. It also set restrictions on how utilities may provide financial assistance. Such as a grant shall not exceed 50% of the cost to replace the lead service line, and requires approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

The PLSLR Program was developed to empower the homeowner in giving them the opportunity to decide by who and how their PLSL is replaced. It also assists the resident in navigating the sometimes difficult and confusing process of hiring a plumber. The program includes a list of plumbers that the City has prequalified for you, the resident, to choose from. The City encourages residents to obtain at least 2-3 quotes from plumbers to ensure you get the best price. After you decide on a contractor and have chosen a date, the plumber will complete the work and the necessary forms and return them to the City. **Payment for both the grant portion and the property owner advance loan portion will be paid directly to the plumber by the City.**

## Information Links

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/lead](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/lead)  
**Wisconsin DNR (Lead)**

[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Lead)**

[www.fdl.wi.gov/water/programs/plslr/](http://www.fdl.wi.gov/water/programs/plslr/)  
**Water Utility**

[www.lslr-collaborative.org](http://www.lslr-collaborative.org)  
**Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative**

[www.fdlco.wi.gov/home](http://www.fdlco.wi.gov/home)  
**Fond du Lac County See Health Department**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/137>  
**State Legislation 2017 Wisconsin Act 137**

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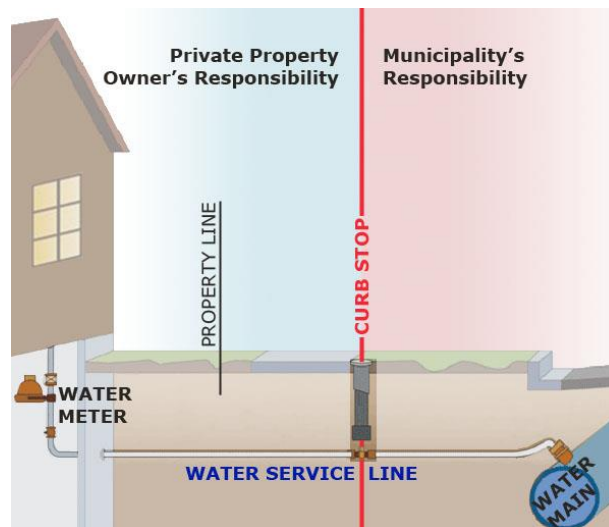
## Lead Health Effects

Lead is absorbed by the lungs and the digestive tract from all sources and enters the bloodstream, where it is distributed to all tissues of the body. Excessive levels of lead can damage the brain, kidneys, nervous system, red blood cells and reproductive organs. The degree of harm is directly related to the level of lead in the blood.

Known effects of exposure to lead range from subtle changes in body chemistry and nervous system functions at low levels to severe toxic effects or even death at very high levels associated with acute poisoning.

Young children, infants and fetuses appear to be particularly vulnerable to harmful effects of lead. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a big effect on a small child. Also, growing children will more rapidly absorb any lead they consume. A child's mental and physical development can be irreversibly stunted by over exposure to lead, especially in infants, whose diet consists of liquids made with water.

## What is a Private Lead Service Line?



The water service line is the pipe that carries water from the water main, which is usually located in the street, to your home. The service line is comprised of two sections, the city's portion, and the private property or home owner's portion. The city's responsibility starts at the water main and terminates at the curb stop. The curb stop is a valve that is usually located between the sidewalk and the street.

This valve is used to control the water to your property.

It is from this point that the ownership of the service line changes to private property and becomes the home owner's responsibility.

During a normal construction process the city's contractor will replace the municipality's portion, and connect to the home owner's portion leaving the rest in place. Recent studies have shown that this process of partial lead service line replacements can elevate the level of lead in the home's water for some time.

## What is my service line material?

### Lead



A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.

### Galvanized



A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet - strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.

### Copper



The color of a copper penny.

### Plastic



rigid pipe that is joined to water supply piping with a clamp.

Water service material has changed over time. The four main materials are lead, galvanized or iron pipe, copper, and polyethylene or plastic. Lead was initially used because it's stable and malleable. Plumbers found it easy to work with. As a matter of fact the word "plumbing" is derived from the Latin word for lead, "plumbum" and dates back to the Roman era.

## Tips to Reduce Exposure

(Source: EPA.gov)

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula.
- Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator)
- Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter
- Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

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Lead was predominately used as water service piping up until 1950. It continued to be used in soldered joints up until 1984. The major problem with lead is it's poisonous.

Galvanized steel was commonly used for homes built before 1960. It was lead's replacement. Galvanized steel service lines that were fed by lead service lines in the past may release lead for an extended period of time. Because of this fact private galvanized iron pipe service lines that were previously fed by lead are eligible for the Private LSLR Program.

Copper and plastic are the most commonly used water service material in modern day, although copper is not as commonly used as plastic. There are no known negative health effects from these materials.

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## Electrical Grounding

Some homes use the existing lead service as a grounding source for the home's electrical panel. When the lead service is discontinued to be used as a water pipe, using the lead pipe as a source of grounding now becomes unacceptable per the Wisconsin State Electrical code. As part of your PLSLR it may be necessary to install a code compliant grounding system. This work should be included as part of your total estimate from the plumbing contractor. Your home will be inspected during the process by the City of Fond du Lac Building Inspections department to ensure all electrical codes are met.

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## Meter Placement



The water meter is the device which measures the amount of water that is consumed in the house. It is located at the point of where your water service enters your home. This is normally located in the basement along the wall closest to the street. Sometimes it may be in the middle of the basement. The City of Fond du Lac municipal code §642-10 requires that this meter be placed at the point at which the service enters the house.

When you meet with plumbers keep in mind that the location you determine to have the new service enter your home along with the construction method will determine if and where the water meter **must** be moved. During this process your home will be inspected by a City of Fond du Lac Water Utility representative to ensure compliance with the municipal code.

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## Typical Construction Methods

There are two major methods that may be used to replace your lead water service. The method you choose can affect property disruption, meter placement, and overall project cost. Not all plumbers do the same methods.

One method is to "open cut" or "open trench". This method is the most disruptive. It entails physically trenching in your front yard the entire length from the sidewalk to your home in order to install the new water service.

The other method is "trenchless". There are multiple trenchless techniques. The most common ones for water service replacement are impact moling, guided boring, pipe pulling, and pipe splitting. These methods are the least disruptive and include digging access pits at the sidewalk location and sometimes at the home.

For additional information on construction methods please visit the following:  
<https://www.lslr-collaborative.org/understanding-replacement-techniques.html>

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## Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

(Source: EPA.gov)

- Lead Service Line: Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.
- Copper pipe with lead solder: Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.
- Faucets: Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.
- Galvanized Pipe: Lead particles can attach to the inside surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water, causing elevated lead levels.

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## Property Restoration

After your service is replaced your property will need to be restored. The method you choose will dictate the extent of the disruption. Restoration could include topsoil, seed, and fertilizer, concrete repair, and any other unique landscaping item. The cost of this may or may not be included in your quote from the plumber. Read your quote carefully and ask questions.

## Prequalified Plumber Listing

Listed below are the prequalified plumbers that homeowners **must** contract with if they wish to be eligible for the PLSLR Financial Assistance. Cost may vary between plumbers for the same work, so please contact at least two plumbers to obtain competitive quotes and choose the one you would like to hire for the work.

Business Name	Address	City, State	Phone Number
Acme Trenchless Utilities Inc.	114 S Main St #258	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 376-4222
Ahern-Gross Inc.	218 S. Main Street	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 921-1414
Gry Acquisitions LLC	629 Van Dyne Rd	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 921-7546
Mand Plumbing LLC.	PO Box 1341	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 924-4575
Mies Rooter & Plumbing	N7333 Mosher Dr.	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 922-7273
Pat Mand Boring & Trenching	PO Box 1541	Fond du Lac, WI	(920) 960-3635

There are two forms that will be needed to be sent to the City to participate in the program. The plumbers have these forms, or they can be found at the following website: <https://www.fdl.wi.gov/water/programs/plslr>

### **Homeowner-Plumber Supplemental Agreement**

- Agreement between you and the plumber explaining how the subsidy works. Both parties to sign this form and submit to the Utility before the work starts.

### **Application for Payment of Costs (After Work is Completed)**

- This is the form the plumber will fill out after the work is done and passes inspection.

Note: This may not be an all-inclusive list of plumbers as some may have joined after the newsletter print date. If there is a plumber not on the list that is preferred please have them fill out an application and submit to the City's Building Inspection Department to become prequalified. The most up to date list of plumbers as well as a Prequalified Plumber Application can be found at the website listed above.

## Financial Assistance

The Utility is offering financial assistance to help homeowners pay for their PLSLR. Payments for eligible costs under the PLSLR program may be comprised of a grant for up to 50% of the actual cost (not to exceed a maximum grant amount of \$2,000) and a low interest loan through the Utility payable in yearly installments over a ten-year-period. Payment for both the grant portion and the property owners advance loan portion will be paid directly to the plumber by the Utility. Confirmation of payment to the Plumber will be made to property owner. In addition, this payment confirmation will include financial information regarding your portion. Invoices will be mailed out after Sept. 30, 2022 with payments due end of 2022. If the property is sold during the payback period, the entire loan balance becomes due and payable and shall be paid when the house sale closes. In 2021 the average cost for this work was \$3,900 per water service.